THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Sex tourism in any form is an illegal activity in India. The Ministry of Tourism has advised all State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations to take necessary steps in order to prevent any such activity.

Increase in foreign debt of the country

†*280. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JFTHMALANI:

Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount foreign debt on the country is increasing constantly;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase in the amount foreign debt for the period 2004-05 to 2006-07; and

(c) the amount of interest paid on the foreign debt during the above said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The quantum of foreign debt of the country and its percentage increase for the period 2004-05 to 2006-07 is given in statement (*See* below).

Statement-I

External Debt

	(US $ million)		(Rs. crore)*	
At end-March	Amount	Increase(%)	Amount	Increase (%)
1	2	3	4	5
2004	111,645		491,078	
2005	124,160	11.2	544.587	10.9
2006	127,623	2.8	569,672	4.6
2007	156,649	22.7	682,904	19.9

*At end-period exchange rates.

(c) the amount of interest paid on foreign debt during the above periods, year-wise, is given in Statement-II

Statement-II

Interest Paid on External Debt

	Amount	
Financial Year	(US $ million)	(Rs. crore)*
1	2	3
2004-05	3,803	17,087
2005-06	5,487	24,291
2006-07	5,534	25,058

* At yearly average rates.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.